

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ISO-00 /066 W

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O R 271144Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0214

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON UNN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC HONOLULU

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1513

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: THAI ELECTION CENTRAL -- RESULTS AS OF 1900 JANUARY 27

REF: BANGKOK 1441

SUMMARY: THE MONEYED CONSERVATIVE PARTIES HAVE LOST GROUND.

THE PRIME BENEFACTORS OF THIS TREND APPEAR TO BE THE DEMOCRAT

PARTY OF SENI PRAMOT AND A GALAXY OF SMALL SPLINTER PARTIES.

NO PARTY HAS ANYWHERE NEAR A MAJORITY, AND SEVERAL WILL HAVE

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TO COMBINE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRELIMINARY ELECTION RETURNS FROM THE PROVINCES SUGGEST A SHIFT AWAY FROM THE MONEYED CONSERVATIVE PARTIES WHICH WERE THE REMAKES OF THE FORMER REGIME'S UNITED THAI PEOPLE'S PARTY (UTPP). THAI NATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL AGRARIAN AND SOCIAL NATIONALIST CANDIDATES ARE NOT DOING SO WELL AS EXPECTED. SAWANG PHIBUNSARAWUT, SOCIAL AGRARIAN CANDIDATE AND MAJOR PARTY FINANCIER, LOST HIS RACE IN UDORN PROVINCE. OLD TIME POLITICO PRASIT CHUPHINIT, RUNNING UNDER THE THAI NATION LABEL, APPEARS TO HAVE LOST TO A DEMOCRAT SWEEP OF KAMPHENGPHET PROVINCE. IN PHETBURI PROVINCE THE TWO FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS RUNNING AS SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL NATIONALIST CANDIDATES LOST TO NEWCOMERS, ONE DEMOCRAT AND ONE THAI NATION.

2. THE PRIME BENEFACTORS OF THE SHIFT AWAY FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PARTIES APPEAR TO BE THE DEMOCRATS AND THE SPLINTER PARTIES. UNOFFICIAL AND INCOMPLETE ELECTION RESULTS FOR 250 OF THE 269 SEATS IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT SHOW THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS:

A. CONSERVATIVES

SOCIAL JUSTICE	44
THAI NATION	25
SOCIAL AGRARIAN	18
SOCIAL NATIONALIST	15
SUB-TOTAL	102

B. CENTRIST

DEMOCRAT	65
SOCIAL ACTION	16
NEW FORCE	11
SUB-TOTAL	92

C. LEFTISTS

SOCIALIST PARTY	13
SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT	10
SUB-TOTAL	23

D. OTHERS

PEACEFUL PEOPLE	8
PEOPLES JUSTICE	5
THAI NATIONAL REGENERATION	3
THAI TERRITORY	1

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SOVEREIGNTY	2
THAI	4
DEMOCRACY	3
PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT	1
FARMER'S	1
ECONOMIST	1
LABOR	1
PEOPLE'S POWER	2

FREE PEOPLE	1
SUB-TOTAL	33
TOTAL	250

4. COMMENT: NEITHER THE PRINCIPAL CONSERVATIVE NOR CENTRIST PARTIES WILL HAVE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OF 135. THE DEMOCRATS AND SPLINTER PARTIES HAVE BLED TOO MUCH STRENGTH AWAY FROM THE CONSERVATIVES. THE SPLINTER PARTIES HAVE THUS ACQUIRED AN IMPORTANCE OUT OF PROPORTION TO THEIR NUMBERS AND RAISE THE PROSPECT OF CABINET INSTABILITY. FURTHER COMPLICATING THE SITUATION, A NUMBER OF SPLINTER PARTY LEADERS DID NOT WIN THEIR OWN RACES, THUS WEAKENING THEIR CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS.

5. THE DEMOCRAT PARTY HAS DONE WELL, BUT IT ALSO IS FAR FROM A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AND HAS FEWER POSSIBILITIES OF AMALGAMATION THAN THE CONSERVATIVE GROUPINGS. DESPITE THE KEENER COMPETITION FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY, THE DEMOCRATS PROTECTED THEMSELVES WELL IN BANGKOK. THE ELECTION BROUGHT MANY POLITICAL NOVICES INTO POLITICS.
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